

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 EB-11 MC-02 ACDA-19

OMB-01 TRSE-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 AID-20 DRC-01 IGA-02

DOT-00 FMC-04 NEA-14 CG-00 /191 W
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4589

USDOC WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO SECDEF WASHDC PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USMISSION UN NEW YORK PRIORITY

USMISSION GENEVA PRIORITY

JCS WASHDC PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

COMMILSEALIFTCOMD PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 5121

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EGEN, CGEN, MASS, TU, GR

SUBJECT: LASH ESPANA - SHIP DEPARTS WITHOUT TURKISH AMMUNITION

REF: ATHENS 5063; STATE 16390

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR BUFFUM

USDOC PASS MARAD - OFFICE INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES

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1. FOLLOWING ASSURANCES FROM COL. ROUSSOS, SHAFCE, THAT THE

VESSEL WAS TO BE RELEASED, THE OWNERS AGENT IN PIRAEUS WAS INSTRUCTED BY THE HARBOUR MASTER TO APPEAR BEFORE ADMIRAL CRISTODOLIDIS, PIRAEUS NAVAL COMMAND, AT 1800 JULY 26, TO PRESENT ALL SHIPS PAPERS AND MANIFESTS OF CARGO ON BOARD. ALTHOUGH EMBOFF AND MARAD REP ATTEMPTED TO ACCOMPANY THE AGENT TO THIS MEETING, THEIR PRESENCE WAS UNDESIRE BY CRISTODOLIDIS. AT THIS MEETING THE AGENT WAS TOLD THE NAVY HAD SUSPICIONS THAT TURKISH MILITARY CARGO WAS BURIED BENEATH THE COMMERCIAL CARGO AND THAT THE MANIFEST MAY BE INACCURATE. AT 2300 CRISTODOLIDIS ORDERED THE AGENT TO PREPARE TO RECEIVE A BOARDING PARTY OF HARBOR AUTHORITY AND NAVAL OFFICERS WHO WOULD INSPECT THE VESSEL AND CARGO. AGAIN CRISTODOLIDIS REQUESTED EMBOFFS NOT BE PRESENT. BETWEEN 0300 - 0700 JULY 27, FIVE BARGES HAD COVERS REMOVED FOR INSPECTION. THE BOARDING PARTY RETURNED TO PIRAEUS TO REPORT TO CRISTODOLIDIS. ABOUT 0930 THE AGENT WAS ADVISED VERBALLY THAT THE VESSEL COULD SAIL BUT WITHOUT THE THREE BARGES OF TURKISH MILITARY CARGO. NO DOCUMENTATION WAS GIVEN TO THE AGENT OR MASTER RELATING TO THE CONFISCATION OF THE MILITARY CARGO. AGENT UNDERSTANDS THAT THE TURKISH MILITARY CARGO IS NOW BEING UNLOADED FROM THE BARGES IN PIRAEUS.

2. VESSEL CLEARED THE PILOT STATION AT 1400 LOCAL BOUND FOR ISTANBUL. VESSEL CARRIES BARGES AND CONTAINERS OF CARGO LADEN IN GREECE FOR U.S. PART OF THIS CARGO IS U.S. MILITARY H/H EFFECTS AND 6 BARGES OF FERRO NICKEL (2160 TONS) CONSIGNED TO INDUSSA, N.Y., WHO IS OWNER SINCE IT WAS F.O.B. TRANSACTION.

3. SHOULD BE NOTED THAT OTHER U.S. FLAG SHIPS ARRIVING IN GREECE WITH CARGO FOR TURKEY MAY FACE SIMILAR DIFFICULTIES UNTIL CYPRUS CRISIS IMPROVES. IN CIRCUMSTANCES MARAD MAY WISH ADVISE AMERICAN EXPORT AND OTHER U.S. LINES OF POSSIBLE RISKS INVOLVED IN CARRYING CARGO FOR TURKEY INTO GREEK PORTS. TASCA

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